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gether. Thus, a son would inherit two-thirds of his father's estate, but could pass on only a small portion of this sum. In order to leave a large bequest, he must earn money on his own account. He believes that the perplexities in connection with the practical application of this scheme—such as the separation of the property into that which is inherited, and that which is earned, and the reduction of gifts *inter vivos*—could be successfully solved.

Another little-known idea brought forward is that of Professor Pigou, that all inheritances should be settled on public trustees, who should control the property in the public interest and pay over the income to the beneficiary. Among the other reforms advocated are the abolition of primogeniture, a narrowing of the rights of relatives in the property of intestates, and the limitation of the amount of any individual inheritance.

If any criticism is to be offered of this spirited and scholarly treatise, it is that the groundwork is not sufficiently well laid. What are the amounts involved? How great are the inequalities of income? How many people would be adversely affected by the carrying out of the proposed reforms? To what extent would the community at large be benefited? With the exception of a few limitations (pp. 202, 207), a favorable answer to all these questions is assumed; and yet it can scarcely be said that the correct answers to them all are matters of common knowledge.

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*Readings and Problems in Statistical Methods.* By Horace Secrist, Ph.D. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1920. Pp. xi, 427.

In recent years books of readings have come to serve as valuable supplements to regular text-books in many courses of study. In perhaps no field has the instructor felt more the need for a well-selected book of readings than in the field of statistics. The limitation of space necessarily compels the author of a text-book on statistics to confine himself largely to a discussion of general principles and methods. The study of statistical principles, however, except perhaps as an exercise in logic or mathematics, serves no valuable purpose in itself; it is useful only as a means of furnishing a tool for the conduct or understanding of actual investigations of concrete problems. Consequently, every teacher of the subject has doubtless recognized the desirability of bringing to the attention of his students examples of the application of statistical methods in the analysis of practical problems. Satisfactory illustrative material, however, must be gathered from numerous sources, and if the instructor's class is large, or if its ready access to the material is not feasible, a severe handicap in instruction is experienced. A compact volume of readings, carefully chosen to show the use of statistical methods in actual investigations, would go far toward overcoming these difficulties.

Although it is the opinion of the reviewer that such a collection of readings would meet the greatest need, it is quite possible to arrange a collection with other purposes in view. For example, the selections might be chosen simply with the idea of amplifying the theoretical discussions of a text-book, or an attempt might be made to make the readings serve as a complete text in themselves, with perhaps the inclusion of certain selections for illustrative purposes. Compilers of books of readings may differ in their conceptions of the proper functions of such a book; but, whatever it may be, some well-defined purpose should exist in the compiler's mind and should be adhered to in his choice of readings. If an attempt is made to compile a collection which will serve several purposes at once, there is danger that no purpose will be adequately served.

In the introduction to Professor Secrist's volume, it is stated that selections were chosen "to illustrate concretely the attitude of mind in which statistical analysis must be undertaken and to develop logically the steps and processes through which statistical data must be carried in order to be used as bases for logical inferences." The selections are intended to constitute within themselves an independent treatment of statistical principles, but it is expected that they will have their greatest value when used in connection with a text on statistical methods and are intended primarily for use in this manner. Their use in connection with the compiler's own text-book, *An Introduction to Statistical Methods*, is considerably facilitated by the employment of the same chapter headings in both volumes. The readings include selections dealing with the usual subdivisions of statistical methods—the collection of data, classification and tabulation, diagrammatic presentation, averages, index numbers, summarization, and comparison. They are drawn from various sources such as government reports, special studies, statistical and economic journals.

In the choice of readings the volume suffers from the attempt to serve too many purposes. Doubtless the desire of the compiler to make the readings serviceable independently as a text led him to include many selections that are purely abstract discussions of statistical principles and their uses. But such selections are not inclusive enough or well enough coördinated to enable them to answer adequately the requirements of a general text. For instance, the chapter entitled "Description and Summarization—Dispersion and Skewness," contains nothing whatsoever explaining the various measures of dispersion and skewness. Similarly, the selection in the following chapter dealing with correlation would not be understandable to the beginner in the study of statistics without supplementary reading in a text. The book contains too many gaps in the exposition of the elements of statistical methods to make it in itself a satisfactory dependence for general text-book purposes.

As the compiler states, however, the readings are intended primarily for use in connection with a text on statistical methods, and it is the opinion of the reviewer that this is the only way in which they could be used satisfactorily. But if a text must be used along with the readings, it would seem that the space devoted to the abstract discussion of theory and methods could have been much reduced without loss to the student. This would be true, for example, of practically the entire chapter on tabular presentation, which is devoted to an exposition of general principles with no concrete illustrations. The omission of such selections would have made possible the inclusion of much more material illustrative of the practical application of statistical methods in actual investigations—a type of material which, as stated above, it is believed would fill the greatest need in the teaching of statistics. There are some excellent specimens of this type included in the *Readings*. For example, the one from Chaney and Hanna's *The Safety Movement in the Iron and Steel Industry, 1907 to 1917*, in connection with the study of units of measurement; also, several selections from Professor Davis R. Dewey's Report on "Employees and Wages" in the *Twelfth Census*. It is regrettable that more readings of this type were not substituted for some of the abstract discussions. In the introduction, the compiler states that his purpose has been to emphasize the use of statistics. But would the student not be much more impressed with the use of statistics in business, for instance, by a concrete example of the statistics actually collected and used by some business organization, than by a general discourse upon the subject?

It is believed that the serviceableness of the readings could have been greatly enhanced by thus placing greater emphasis upon the application of statistical methods in the choice of selections. Nevertheless, both the student and the instructor will find this volume a useful aid in the study of statistical methods. Through it ready

access is provided to supplementary and illustrative material that for many would otherwise be unavailable. The value of the volume for pedagogical purposes is enhanced by the inclusion, at the end of each important article, of questions which should prove stimulative to the thinking of the student along collateral lines as well as suggestive of practical problems to which they may relate. Review problems at the end of all ten chapters except the first three provide material for the much needed exercises or laboratory work in connection with courses in statistical methods. The author is more or less apologetic for the inclusion of these problems, but unduly so; no instructor in statistics will begrudge them the few pages of space that they occupy and all, on the contrary, should welcome them as a valuable aid in teaching.

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*Workingmen's Standard of Living in Philadelphia.* By William C. Beyer, Rebekah P. Davis, and Myra Thwing. New York, The Macmillan Company, 1919. Pp. x, 125.

Among the many attempts to measure living costs, this report of the Bureau of Municipal Research of Philadelphia must be awarded high rank. In 1917, the Bureau undertook to establish a living wage to serve as a basis for the payment of manual laborers in the employ of the city. Thoroughly alive to the fact that any estimate in terms of money would have but momentary value, the Bureau determined to derive such a "goods standard" that its money equivalent could be calculated at frequent intervals.

In arriving at the "goods standard," experts on diet, housing, and industrial relations were consulted, and the work of Chapin, of Cotton and Little, and of the War Labor Board was studied; but main reliance was placed upon a new investigation among self-supporting families of Philadelphia manual laborers whose principal bread-winner did not earn more than \$2,000 a year. As usual, the attempt to induce families to keep accurate accounts met with little success. The best data were secured by skilful personal interviews based upon an elaborate schedule. The answers of each housewife were tabulated, and the estimated expenditures checked with the income. If there was a larger discrepancy between income and disbursements than five per cent, the schedule was rejected. Great emphasis was placed upon obtaining quantities of goods used as well as payments.

The conclusions are presented at length in the fourth chapter. The standard of living consists of (1) a two-story row house with six rooms, a bathroom, a laundry, a furnace, and gas for cooking and lighting; (2) five tons of coal, 26,000 cubic feet of gas, and fifty-two boxes of matches; (3) food in amounts specified for a family of five individuals with the consuming capacity of 3.80 adult males; (4) clothing, the articles needed by each member of the family being listed in detail; (5) car fares for 708 rides; (6) certain cleaning and toilet supplies; and (7) the unspecified standard. The lists in groups (1) to (6) are very detailed and complete. After their money cost has been determined, 21 per cent is added for group (7), comprising health, furnishings, taxes, recreation, education, insurance, and other miscellaneous items. In the fall of 1918, the money equivalent of this standard was \$1,636.79.

The authors recommend that this goods standard be revised at least once in five years, and that its money equivalent be calculated annually in order to fix minimum wages for adult males in unskilled manual municipal employments. They suggest that similar standards be devised for other classes of workers.

Any estimate of a cost of living is an easy target for criticism as to minutia. It is hard to imagine, for example, a manual laborer's making a pair of hose supporters